THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) Four low power TV transmitters (100 W), one each in Banaskantha, Amreli, Surendranagar and Junagadh districts of Gujarat were set up during the last eight months. These transmitters provide TV service to about 10.80 lakh people in these districts.

(d) Besides replacement of the existing low power (100 W) TV transmitter at Bhuj by a high power (10 KW) one, five more low power transmitters are proposed to be set up in Gujarat as part of the Seventh Plan.

**Revised guidelines to Mini Steel Plants**

1814. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently issued revised guidelines for mini steel plants in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) to what extent the mini steel plants have been permitted by Government to expand their production capacity; and

(d) whether the mini steel plants are likely to achieve their targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A copy of the relevant extracts from the Press Note No. 4 (1988 Series) issued by Ministry of Industry, Department of Industrial Development, is annexed as Statement (See below). Permission for modernisation and expansion will be given to the mini steel plants which submit proposals in accordance with the guidelines.

(d) No specific target of production for mini steel plants has been laid down.

**Statement**

*Extracts from Press note No. 4 (1988 Series)*

SUBJECT: Guidelines for Steel Industry.

The existing guidelines for allowing steel capacity were last drawn up in 1982 and those guidelines have now been reviewed having regard to the technological advancement in the steel industry and the need for modernisation and upgradation of the existing mini steel plants to improve their economic viability and its status in the country. The following guidelines have accordingly been drawn up.

With a view to encourage modernisation of the existing electric arc furnace industry in general and reduce the specific power consumption in particular through the adoption of modern energy saving equipment, enhancement of additional capacity upto 150 per cent in addition to the existing licensed capacity will be allowed to steel making units in production as a result of modernisation including replacement of equipment subject to a categorical power assurance from the appropriate authority. The interested parties will have to satisfy the Department of Steel that adequate steps will be taken to instal requisite facilities that will improve their productivity and reduce consumption of power. For availing of this facility, the entrepreneurs are also required to instal facilities to enable the use of sponge iron to the extent of 30% at a minimum level in their arc furnaces. The maximum level of expansion which would be permitted under this provision would be upto a total capacity of 2,50,000 tonnes per annum. In respect of MRTP Companies, such expansion will be subject to clearance under MRTP Act.

2. It has been found that small furnaces of 5 tonnes capacity are not suitable for adoption or modern energy saving facilities and hence a provision has been kept in new guidelines for replacement of smaller furnaces by bigger ones. A unit having installed one or more electric arc furnace(s) of capacity less than 15 tonnes each will be permitted to replace this/these furnace(s) by a singe modern 15 to 25 tonnes capacity electric arc furnace subject to the following conditions:—

(a) The size of the new replacement furnace to be installed should be such that its capacity does not increase the existing licensed capacity by more than 150 per cent.

(b) The units submit a detailed feasibility report which should include details of the existing and proposed facilities.

(c) The unit instals such modern features as may be specified by the Department of Steel.

(d) Submission of categorical power assurance from the State Government.

3. The present policy of permitting flexibility to the mini-steel plants to diversify into production of all grades of carbon and alloy steels, including stainless steel/heat resisting steel within their licensed capacity will continue. Similarly, additions of balancing facilities like continuous casting machines, conditioning facilities etc, for improving productivity and quality will be freely allowed.

4. Where an existing mini-steel plant undertakes modernisation of its electric arc furnace(s) and as a result, its liquid metal availability is sufficient for producing a minimum quantity of 1 lakh tonnes per annum of hot rolled strips/coils, it will be permitted to set up facilities for manufacture of H.R. Steel Strips/Coils of wider width (600 mm and above) subject to the conditions that the interested parties submit a detailed feasibility report, produce a categorical power assurance from the competent authority, electric arc furnace will be capable of using a minimum 30 per cent of its feed in the form of sponge iron and the products conform to specified quality specifications.

5. It has been assessed that there would be a surplus of long products upto 1994-95 and as such, it is not proposed to allow setting up of any new Electric Arc Furnace steel making units during the Seventh Plan period. However, keeping in view the special problems of transporting steel to remote areas, this provision will not be applicable to the areas located in Jammu and Kashmir, the hilly districts of U.P., North Eastern States, Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh where mini-steel plants with a capacity of 50 000 tonnes per annum will be permitted subject to categorical power assurance given by the State Governments concerned and also subject to the condition that the capacity is achieved through the Electric Arc Furnace route.

6. Existing licensed mini-steel plants will be allowed to attain a minimum economic capacity of 50,000 tonnes per annum through Electric Arc Furnace route on production of categorical assurance regarding power availability from the respective State Governments.

**Permission for modernisation of Mini Steel Plants**

1815. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to allow all the mini-steel plants in the country to modernise their plants with the latest available Western technology; and